

# Halifax metro

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL



Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2015

High 11°C/Low 7°C Rain

## The Heart of Christmas

**You don't have to be religious to understand the true meaning of the holidays. It's really just about good manners. Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro. XO!**

**Heartfelt advice** from our etiquette expert Ellen Vanstone



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## HOLIDAY HOURS

# Attention shoppers: What's open, closed



**Yvette d'Entremont**  
Metro | Halifax

Last-minute Christmas shoppers don't have much time left to tie up those loose ends.

Malls, grocery stores and Nova Scotia Liquor Corporation outlets will all shut down at 5 p.m. on Thursday for a two-day Christmas break.

Most grocery stores are on extended hours until then. NSLC outlets will be open regular hours as listed on the NSLC's website until 5 p.m. Thursday.

Mic Mac Mall and the Halifax Shopping Centre reopen from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Sunday for Boxing Day shoppers. Both malls will be open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on New Year's Eve and closed on New Year's Day.

Most drug stores will also be closed on Christmas Day but will reopen on Boxing Day. Many local independent busi-

## + TRANSIT

Transit users are also encouraged to visit the site [halifax.ca/transit](http://halifax.ca/transit) for the holiday schedule to determine times for bus and ferry services over the Christmas break.

nesses also have varied holiday hours so it's always best to call ahead to avoid disappointment.

Under provincial legislation most retail businesses must close on Christmas, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

The city is advising that collection of garbage, green bins and recycling won't happen on Christmas Day. Residents whose regular collection day is Friday should ensure their items are curbside before 7 a.m. on Saturday.

Regular collection scheduled for Friday, Jan. 1 will be delayed until Saturday, Jan. 2.

## IN BRIEF

### Man hit by bus hospitalized

Police say a man was injured after being hit by a Halifax Transit bus while walking in a marked crosswalk. The collision occurred at 11:40 a.m. Wednesday at the intersection of Radcliffe and Lacewood drives. The pedestrian suffered injuries to his legs and was taken to hospital.

There was no word whether the driver of the bus would be charged. METRO

### Woman, 20, dead on boat

Police in Nova Scotia are investigating after a 20-year-old woman was found dead on a fishing boat. According to a release, at about 5 p.m. Tuesday, Digby RCMP received a call that led police to a fishing vessel at a public wharf in Westport.

Police said the case is still in the early stages and no more details are being released at this time. METRO



Police tape outside the Mumford Road Walmart on Wednesday, where a 24-year-old man was fatally hurt. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Man struck, killed by truck at Walmart

## INVESTIGATION

## Victim died in store's parking lot, driver in police custody



**Philip Croucher**  
Metro | Halifax

A 24-year-old man is dead after being struck by a truck in a parking lot at Walmart in Halifax.

Police say the victim was struck at 11:18 p.m. Tuesday and died at the scene at 6990 Mumford Rd.

The driver of the truck, a 52-year-old man, was arrested and remained in police custody on Wednesday.

"He has been arrested and is in custody and they are interviewing him. He's not been charged as of yet," said Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Const. Dianne Woodworth around midday.

When asked why the driver was arrested, she said, "based on the circumstances of the

## + WITNESSES

Police are asking anyone who witnessed the incident to contact them.

accident."

"I can't get into the specifics of what happened because it's still under investigation," Woodworth then added.

By early evening, Woodworth said the driver was still in police custody.

Police say they don't believe alcohol was a factor in the fatal

collision.

As shoppers came in and out of the busy Walmart location two days before Christmas, yellow police tape could be seen hanging from a cart corral in the parking lot.

Several Walmart employees said they didn't know any of the specifics of what had happened, as it was business as usual at the store.

"It's scary, something like this happening so close to Christmas," said a female employee as she stocked shelves. "It kind of puts everything into perspective."

**FREE PARKING!** All day at the Park Lane Parkade on December 27<sup>th</sup>

**BOXING DAY SALE**

**EXTENDED SHOPPING HOURS**

Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am - 6:00pm

\*participating stores only

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# Councillors talk top priorities

There will be plenty of important issues coming through City Hall next year including transit upgrades, fire services, taxes, development, services and of course the fall election. Metro asked councillors what they think is the biggest issue facing our city in 2016. Here are their priorities.

HALEY RYAN METRO, WITH FILES FROM YVETTE D'ENTREMONT AND ZANE WOODFORD



A firefighter inspects the damage after a blaze. Converting three fire stations into volunteer units on overnights and weekends has sparked debate among city councillors. JEFF HARPER/METRO



## Barry Dalrymple

**District 1:** Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley

**Top priority:** The biggest issue for my part of the city has always been and probably will continue to be services, tax fairness and equality. I see that as something that will be continuing well past 2016 because we have a long way to go to catch up.



## David Hendsbee

**District 2:** Preston-Chezzetcook-Eastern Shore

**Top priority:** We should be targeting projects for 2017. We have the 100th anniversary of the Halifax Explosion and the Fort Needham project. And we also have the 150th anniversary of Canada and the Trans Canada Trail is supposed to be connected by then.



## Bill Karsten

**District 3:** Dartmouth South-Eastern Passage

**Top priority:** The overarching is certainly the fiscal responsibility, and keeping taxes as low as we can. The fire services, and then of course ... make sure that we proceed and hire the most capable and efficient and effective CAO that we can.



## Lorelei Nicoll

**District 4:** Cole Harbour-Westphal

**Top priority:** Maintaining the growth and development of our municipality, providing opportunities for our youth, meeting the needs of our aging population and managing expectations while remaining fiscally responsible and keeping tax rates fair for citizens and businesses.



## Gloria McCluskey

**District 5:** Dartmouth Centre

**Top priority:** Trying to close that fire station (Station 13 on King street). They're going to have volunteer firefighters on the weekend, and in a city like Dartmouth, you have to have full-time firefighters ... Volunteer firefighters, while they're great out in the rural areas, are not trained to work in the urban areas.



## Wayne Mason

**District 7:** Halifax South Downtown

**Top priority:** The big things are all around transit that I think change people's lives; the GPS on the phones so that you know when the bus is coming is happening this year, the new fare box technology is happening at the end of this year ... there's the ongoing rail discussion, we're getting a third ferry.



## Jennifer Watts

**District 8:** Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley

**Top priority:** The centre plan ... If we get the urban core in a place where it's strong and it's healthy, that will have a tremendous impact for the rest of the municipality, so I think that's a really important initiative for next year.



## Linda Mosher

**District 9:** Halifax West Arm-dale

**Top priority:** The councillor could not be reached for comment as she is away on vacation.



## Russell Walker

**District 10:** Halifax-Bedford Basin West

**Top priority:** It would be the fire stations. Whether they're going to stay open or stay closed or what they're going to do ... That's a decision that's got to be made. It's going to come to a head, one way or the other.



## Stephen Adams

**District 11:** Spryfield-Sambro Loop-Prospect Road

**Top priority:** Keeping the taxes down where they belong. No tax increase is always a goal. At ... recent budget discussions they talked about increasing taxes, not paying down much debt to do extra paving and stuff, and I don't think that's acceptable — especially not in an election year.



## Reg Rankin

**District 12:** Timberlea-Beechville-Clayton Park West

**Top priority:** Conclude budget discussions with a reasonable tax rate and resist growing the expenditures. There's a lot of people that are out jobs ... let's be challenged as we ought to be, and to limit our expenditures and come in with a tax rate that is no more than last year.



## Matt Whitman

**District 13:** Waverley-Fall River-Musquodoboit Valley

**Top priority:** Balancing growth in metro and making sure that our residents and citizens get value for their tax dollar. We're booming as far as cranes and development ... but I want to make sure that those of us here for the long haul are not negatively impacted by that growth.



## Brad Johns

**District 14:** Middle/Upper Sackville-Beaver Bank-Lucasville

**Top priority:** In 2015 our snow clearing sucked, our grass-cutting sucked, our line painting sucked ... a lot of those things fell by the wayside ... so one of my goals for 2016 is to see that the responsibilities and the services that the municipality provides are done properly.



## Steve Craig

**District 15:** Lower Sackville

**Top priority:** How we're bringing all our initiatives together so we can see total progress in the municipality. That goes from small business tax reform, to all this construction we're seeing happening, and the 'so what' when it all comes together — the infrastructure when that comes together.



## Tim Outhit

**District 16:** Bedford-Wentworth

**Top priority:** My hope is that this year council will set direction and policy that will better align growth and development with improvements to transportation and public transit.

**Note:** The seat for outgoing District 6 Coun. Darren Fisher will be filled in early 2016.



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26 AND SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2015

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**WHAT REMAINS ST. PATRICK HIGH SCHOOL DEMOLITION** Workers tear down the final pieces of Halifax's St. Pat's High School on Wednesday. The demolition work has been taking place for much of the year. JEFF HARPER/METRO

# Fall fouls up fave fiddle

## PERFORMANCE

### Cape Breton's MacMaster bruises pride, instrument

As a mother of six, Cape Breton fiddling great Natalie MacMaster knows all about bumps and bruises.

But it was a shock to both her and husband Donnell Leahy when she fell onstage during a recent Christmas concert in St. Catharines, Ont.

Fortunately, the 43-year-old MacMaster was unhurt, but the same couldn't be said for her favourite fiddle.

"I have to say not once in all her thousands of performances has that ever happened," said Leahy in a Facebook post.

"She is fine but she landed on her fiddle and crushed it!"

Leahy might not know his wife's onstage history as well as he thinks, according to one of hundreds of posts about the incident on MacMaster's Face-

## + THE FIX IS IN

The damaged instrument was sent to the Remenyi House of Music in Toronto for repairs. TC MEDIA

book page.

Wrote Janine Lang:

"So sorry, I remember Natalie falling at the Celtic Colours Festival in Port Hawkesbury a few years back. First thing she said was 'My fiddle is fine.' Not so lucky with yours this time."

Many expressed legitimate concern about both the performer and her fiddle.

"I'm glad you're alright and I'm sorry about the fiddle. That still must be a crushing loss. Hope your instrument situation gets solved," posted Katie Koza.

The instrument was rumoured to be her favourite, but being a consummate professional, the niece of the late Cape Breton fiddling legend Buddy MacMaster had a spare and the show went on.

TC MEDIA

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# Refugee deadline approaches

## IMMIGRATION

## 8,000 Syrians in 8 days needed to meet federal target



**Michael Woods**  
Metro | Ottawa

While many Canadians will soon be sleeping with visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads, hundreds of public servants are working around the clock in pursuit of the federal government's goal to bring 10,000 Syrian refugees here by Dec. 31.

More than 500 public servants — the bulk of them at Canadian government refugee processing centres in Amman, Jordan and Beirut, Lebanon — are working to identify, interview, screen and process the refugees before sending them on government flights bound for Toronto and Montreal.

"The people in the field are working incredibly hard and they've improved their techniques," Immigration Minister



**Min. John McCallum** says the government will have identified the 10,000 refugees who will be on Canadian soil in the coming months. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

John McCallum said Wednesday, back from a visit to Jordan and Lebanon.

"This is something totally new. We've never done anything like this in our history at such speed," he added. "They are doing it as quickly as possible and over the days they are learning to do it smarter and more effectively."

Many of the staff are Can-

adian Forces members there to help with medical screening and gathering biometric data, such as fingerprints, McCallum said. The two processing centres are now "powerful machines," especially on the medical screening front. Officials are processing 800 medical cases per day in Amman and Beirut combined, McCallum said.

### + OBSTACLES

Minister John McCallum admitted Wednesday it may not meet its target. "We are working day and night to achieve it. But there are certain factors outside our control," he said. Those include weather, and refugees' potential unwillingness to leave on very short notice.

"We are moving heaven and earth to get them here ... but to do it in a way that is correct and appropriate."

#### TRUDEAU TRACKER

- ✓ GENDER PARITY
- ✓ TAXATION
- ? REFUGEES
- ✓ CLIMATE
- ✓ INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Many staff are immigration department officials who are interviewing resettlement candidates. There are also Canada Border Services Agency officials, foreign affairs representatives, and embassy staff.

Many public servants have relocated from other posts abroad, McCallum said.

"I met people who have come literally from all over

the world — from New York, from Hong Kong, from Mexico — to relocate temporarily in this region to help out on this process," he said.

According to the latest federal government numbers, by Wednesday night the government will have resettled 2,167 Syrian refugees in Canada since Nov. 4. Another 19,510 refugee resettlement applications are in progress.

McCallum said the government's goal is still to bring 10,000 refugees to Canada by the end of the year, but he couldn't guarantee it because there were only eight more days to bring some 8,000 refugees into the country.

He said the government will have granted permanent residency to 10,000 refugees, but didn't guarantee that they will all be on Canadian soil by year's end.

However, he said he's "very confident" the government will reach its ultimate goal of bringing 25,000 Syrian refugees here by the end of February.

WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

## HEALTH

## Cannabis charges in limbo

While Rose Miranda waits for her April court date to face potential charges of possession for the purpose of trafficking, the 65-year-old retired education assistant can't take cannabis for her arthritis.



**Rose Miranda**  
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mounties have also banned her from visiting or contacting anyone at Phoenix Pain Management Society, the medical marijuana dispensary where she was volunteering when she was arrested in Nanaimo, B.C.

"I love Baby Trudeau, but he says, 'We're going to fix this.' When? Meanwhile, I have clients who don't have their medication," Miranda said.

"I take care of people who are housebound, people in wheelchairs and people who are poor. They need their medication and right now they can't access it."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has vowed to legalize and regulate marijuana but no timeline is in sight. THE CANADIAN PRESS



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# Following Santa's sleigh gets technical

CHRISTMAS EVE

## Hundreds of volunteers set to keep watch across globe

Peterson Air Force base is getting ready for its annual holiday mission — tracking Santa's storybook sleigh ride around the world.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command has been working for weeks to tackle the one-day mission.

Miles of wire, dozens of computers and 157 telephone lines will greet hundreds of volunteers Thursday, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported. Volunteers will be answering calls from an estimated 125,000 children around the globe looking for Santa's whereabouts.

"We keep adding stuff every year," said Staff Sgt. Kyle Kelly after he and a team of airmen taped down phone wires in the call centre Monday.

The call centre in a training building will be staffed for 23 hours and Christmas Eve. Volunteers will also share Santa's location on Facebook and Twitter. Last year, Santa got 1.6 million Facebook likes.

"We start in November," Kelly said. "We have to test every phone before we bring it in here."

NORAD's 60th year of tracking Santa involves more than the military. The program is underwritten by contractors who pay for the phones, the computers and the website.

First lady Michelle Obama is expected to volunteer, with calls forwarded to her on Christmas Eve.

Volunteers will field a growing number of calls from curious kids from outside the United States.

"We get a lot of calls from Europe, Australia and New Zealand," said NORAD's Stacey Knott, who has organized the

Santa tracking for three years.

Bilingual volunteers handle the foreign-language inquiries.

On the bilingual front, NORAD, a partnership between the U.S. and Canada, has a distinct advantage.

"The great thing about having Canadian forces here is they can speak in French," Canadian Maj. Jennifer Staden said.

NORAD is responsible for defending the skies and monitoring the sea approaches for both nations.

Its control room was originally inside Cheyenne Mountain in Colorado Springs in a shelter designed to withstand a nuclear attack. The control room is now at

Peterson Air Force Base, also in Colorado Springs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ILLUSTRATION BY ANDRES PLANA



## FRANCE SECURITY TIGHTENED AMID HOLIDAY SEASON

A French soldier patrols near a Santa Claus model, in a street in Nice, southeastern France, Wednesday. France's interior minister says the government will tighten security around Christmas, amid continued concerns about potential extremist violence after deadly attacks last month.

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW JERSEY

## Panic over Elf on Shelf

A New Jersey girl called 911 after she touched her Elf on the Shelf.

Police say seven-year-old Isabelle LaPeruta of Old Bridge was worried because, according to the popular children's book, the magic of Christmas goes away if the elf is touched.

WNBC-TV reports the girl told the 911 operator not to come to her house because she had meant to call her dad.

However, police are required to check 911 calls and an officer found the child in tears.

Her mother, Lynanne, says she awoke from a nap to find her daughter trying to shoo an officer out of the house. She says the girl panicked after the elf fell on the floor when she threw a ball.

The officer radioed headquarters: "Isabella apologized. She touched the Elf on a Shelf. She won't call 911 again."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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# Mining may go Uber way

## INDUSTRY

### Abitibi CEO wants to pull stodgy sector into new age

At 31, Ian Ball became one of the youngest mining company presidents on Bay Street at McEwen Mining, which operates in four countries. His boss was none other than legendary gold mining magnate Rob McEwen.

A year after being promoted to the top spot, Ball called up the CEO of Abitibi Royalties (Glenn Mulan) "and told him I wanted to replace him," he jokes Ball. Today, at 34, Ball has that CEO job and is implementing the innovative ideas that got him there.

Last summer, under Ball's leadership, Abitibi launched "The Royalty Search", an online

platform where struggling exploration companies and prospectors can submit a property for consideration to have their annual staking costs or property taxes paid for in exchange for a royalty.

Knowing that the mining industry works slowly as it moves from discovery to excavation, Ball insists the sector needs to refine its business model.

"Look at Uber and Airbnb," he says. "They both support market valuations equal or larger than the world's largest gold miners, but don't own anything. ... At their heart, they are royalty companies getting a percentage of a sale. How do you bring that to mining?"

Ball figures his company's approach with the royalty search helps junior miners survive the ongoing bear market, and gives them a leg up on much bigger, established competitors in the same game.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**Ian Ball**  
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



**ONLINE SECURITY HELLO KITTY FIRM SAYS LEAK PLUGGED** Tourists ride on a sightseeing bus painted with a Hello Kitty character in Tokyo. Sanrio Co., the Japanese company that owns the Hello Kitty brand, said it has fixed a security leak on the SanrioTown.com fan site that compromised the personal information of 3.3 million users, including 186,261 minors. The leak was discovered on Saturday by a security researcher. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

## SHOPPING

### Apps, online services cater to the late shopper

This year there are more apps and services than ever before to help last-minute shoppers. Apps like Curbside deliver orders directly to the trunk of your car, more retailers are offering incentives to buy online and pick up in store, and Amazon Prime Now and other same-day delivery services have vastly expanded. Shopify, which provides online checkout services, said its retailers were partnering with Uber to provide free same-day delivery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## market minute

	<b>DOLLAR</b> 72.17¢ (+0.42¢)
	<b>TSX</b> 13,284.91 (+202.05)
	<b>OIL</b> \$37.50 US (+\$1.36)
	<b>GOLD</b> \$1,068.30 US (-\$5.80)

**NATURAL GAS:** \$1.983 US (+9.5¢)  
**DOW JONES:** 17,602.61 (+185.34)

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## Are you as smart as Metro's favourite feline philosopher?

Our resident snuggly scholar has collected snippets of the best holiday wisdom for you to ponder as you celebrate the season. See how many quips you can match to their authors. And have a meowy Christmas, happy holidays and a healthy and safe new year.



## URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE



**There you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule that JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.**

You may or may not believe in Jesus Christ, but it's hard to argue the man didn't pull off one major miracle: He used a rudimentary form of social media that involved a scattered entourage jotting down tweets on vellum, but more than 2,000 years after his death, his birthday is still an event of global significance.

Admittedly, the manner in which his followers celebrate the day might give him pause. Overspending on toys and gadgets. Committing the sin of gluttony for days on end. Pretending a fat guy from the North Pole uses levitating caribou to commit billions of B&E's in one night via outdated home-heating systems. It's a strange way to honour a poverty-stricken prophet who preached love and humility.

But far be it from me to judge. Because God knows I'd hate to be judged.

There you have it, folks: the biggest gift of all. The golden rule JC expounded during his all-too-brief career as a public motivational speaker and Messiah: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Which is pretty much what I've been saying for almost a year in this etiquette column. Not that I'm comparing myself to Jesus Christ. Obviously, that is not for me to say.

What I am saying is the spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners, i.e., put-

ting the comfort and concerns of others ahead of your own.

These kinds of manners have nothing to do with etiquette per se — it's not about which fork to use or how to address a peer should you be invited to brunch with the House of Lords. Those kinds of rules are too often used by the privileged (a.k.a. lucky) to make "lesser" folk feel excluded, which is the opposite of good manners.

What I'm talking about is the kind of impeccably good manners that are based in love — love for thy neighbours, love for thine own sense of being a decent, moral person.

**The spirit of Christmas is based on the same principle that is at the core of good manners.**

What could be simpler, right? Be nice to everybody while everybody is also nice to you. If we all embraced it for just one single day, we'd instantly have another miracle: world peace. It's so easy a child could understand it!

And yet ... It's so hard! (And believe me, it's twice as hard for someone who writes an etiquette column. The pressure in my personal life not to be a jerk is considerable.)

It's also hard to buy into the

baby-Jesus-peace-and-love message of Christmas when we're drowning in a sea of insidiously sentimental, tinsel-laden, bank-breaking exhortations to buy buy buy. Not to mention the stress of pretending to get along with everyone in your crazy family over turkey. Not to also mention the stress of missing your crazy family should you find yourself separated from them this year.

So allow me to suggest a gift-giving idea that anyone can afford, and is firmly on-message with the season.

Why not give the gift of good manners, all year long?

Help wrangle a stroller onto the streetcar even when you're frantically late. Be patient with frazzled store clerks, harried servers and pedestrians who clog up sidewalks or stop dead at the top of escalators. Talk to the oldest, loneliest person in the room at a party full of sexy dynamos. Listen — really listen — to your most annoying relative. Drop your indifference to a neighbour or co-worker you take for granted, and let what they want and feel actually register in a non-judgmental corner of your brain (it may take some looking, but you'll find it). I guarantee these small but heroic efforts will bring you a little closer to the peaceful, loving world we all crave, whether you're religious or not. Good luck, and Merry Christmas from everyone at Metro!

## Answers

1. Shakespeare
2. Morrissey
3. Gary Allen
4. George Bernard Shaw
5. Josephine Dodge Daskam Bacon
6. Cicero

## LETTERS MORE THAN BRUNCH AT BLACK SHEEP

I am writing in response to your article "Brunch time: The Black Sheep of Halifax's dining scene," published Dec. 18.

As an owner of the new restaurant Black Sheep on Dresden Row in Halifax, I was grateful to receive some attention from Metro on our opening weekend.

I would just like to point out that we will be serving a much broader range of food and drink than the article sug-

gests. At the top of the article, the writer refers to Black Sheep as a "brunch-only restaurant."

However, we are also open in the evenings seven days per week for small plates and cocktails. We also carry local craft beers on tap, offer happy hour pricing in the evenings and provide industry discounts on Sunday and Monday nights.

Thanks,  
John House, Chef/Owner

**We will be serving a much broader range of food and drink than the article suggests.**



## Poulter 'pushed to the brink'

INTERVIEW

### The Revenant actor finds chaos of shoot rewarding

**Richard Crouse**  
For Metro Canada



Stories about The Revenant's rough and tumble shoot have already passed into legend. Harsh filming conditions — it was minus 40 degrees with windchill factor for much of the Alberta shoot — turned the outdoor revenge drama into what one crew member called "a living hell."

One of the film's stars says he was "confused and stressed" during the shoot, but wouldn't have had it any other way.

"It is something that I am only able to analyze and realize in hindsight," says English actor Will Poulter. "I spent the entire experience peppered with these moments of total confusion and emotional stress; in a turmoil. Now I realize that is what I needed to experience. I wouldn't have ever wanted to really gain control because then I wouldn't have been experiencing anything realistic or wouldn't have



British actor Will Poulter portrays legendary mountain man Jim Bridger in the epic frontier adventure The Revenant. CONTRIBUTED

captured anything we needed. I'm glad for those moments."

The 22-year-old, hot off the success of The Maze Runner and We're the Millers, appears alongside Leonardo DiCaprio and Tom Hardy in the gritty vengeance drama about fur trapper Hugh Glass, a frontiersman who became a legend when he trekked across harsh

country after being left for dead following a brutal bear attack. Poulter plays Jim Bridger, an inexperienced fur trapper caught in an impossible situation — torn between loyalty to Glass, his responsibility to his employers and his moral obligations.

"On many occasions (director) Alejandro (Iñárritu) let

me be because I was naturally confused and stressed by being pulled in many directions and not knowing what to do. He often thought the most appropriate thing to do was to allow me to be that. I would turn to him and say, 'I don't know what to do here,' and he would say, 'Why are we even having this conversation?' The

character doesn't know what's going on, so why should I?"

The Revenant is the cinema of misery: a primal story that puts its characters through their paces.

"I think this movie is about the human spirit and I think what Alejandro strove to achieve was a film that explored what humans are able

to endure and what is worth enduring in this kind of experience. Is it family? Is it money? Is it simply the will to live another day in an environment you love and feel safe in? It's an exploration of how much we can take as humans and what motivates us to endure these kinds of conditions."

Poulter says The Revenant is "an emotionally affecting experience," and adds, "there was no creating that without experiencing a lot of the hardships for real." The gruelling outdoor shoot took place on 12 different locations in three different countries including Canada, United States and Argentina from October 2014 to August 2015. Thinking about the shoot Poulter remembers the hard times with pride.

"The moments that stick out most for me are those moments where I felt I was pushed to the brink emotionally and physically but achieving the shot or getting the take. Ending the day was just unbelievable. There are a few of those days that stick out in my mind and that's why it was so rewarding. It's one thing to finish a hard day's (work) and pat one another on the back. It's another thing to finish a day you didn't actually think you could get through and then pat each other on the back."



## Seasons Greetings!

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**Merry Christmas from our Family to Yours!**  
\*Specials in effect Dec. 24-28 while supplies last.



# Laughing on Wall Street

**INTERVIEW**

## Anchorman director tackles the financial crisis

**Richard Crouse**  
For Metro Canada

Adam McKay is best known for directing broad comedies with Will Ferrell like *Anchorman* and *Step Brothers*. But his new film, *The Big Short*, is a different beast.

It's the story of how four investment-bankers — played by Christian Bale, Steve Carell, Finn Wittrock and John Magaro — saw the devastating financial meltdown of 2007–10 coming when no one else did. It's a lighthearted look at a dire situation. Call it a dramedy.

"When I read this book it did everything I wanted to see in a movie," he says. "It was funny, it was tragic, and the characters were amazing. I think it was a case of running into one of the great books of the last 20 years that shows what is really going on in our modern world."

McKay knows how to milk a laugh out of a scene but he also knows that the level of understanding the viewer needs to get why the housing bubble burst is above the level of most MBAs.

"It's like 2 + 2 = fish," says one banker, expressing disbelief at the financial manipulations used by the big banks. In the



**Christian Bale stars in *The Big Short*, directed by Adam McKay. Even McKay's big, broad absurdist comedies have germs of subversive ideas embedded in them, but here the director confronts political ideas head-on in a hard-to-pin-down format.** CONTRIBUTED

film he takes pains to explain how Wall Street likes to use confusing terms to make you think only they can understand what they do.

"We wanted to be the first Wall Street movie that took you behind the curtain, that really said, All these confusing terms you hear, all the ways the banks make you feel stupid or bored ... it's actually not that hard. If the guy who did *Step Brothers* can understand it you can too."

"We were trying to show that this thing that half of Wall Street doesn't understand, these derivatives, mortgage backed securities, they're actually pretty easy."

"They bundled a bunch of

mortgages, they sold them, made a ton of money. Then they ran out of good mortgages so they put crappy mortgages in and coerced the ratings agencies to give them AAA. That's it. That's the whole story."

McKay has an A-list cast but he didn't want to make the movie all about the stars.

"It would have been very easy to just do this character story and just show these guys being affected by it but I wanted this thing to bridge a gap. I think there is too much stuff in our society where people just think, 'Ahhh banking! It's boring. Politics! Who cares?' The truth is, this stuff is exciting, it's the language of power.

Once you get hooked on it, it gets addictive."

*The Big Short* is a look at our recent past, but McKay warns this is not a historical drama or cautionary tale, rather it's very much a going concern.

"All the effects of this collapse are still completely in play. All the same questions are still in play and they fixed a few things but they didn't fix the main, weight bearing beam beams that caused this problem."

"So this is an active story right this second. That is one of the main reasons we made this movie, we want people to understand that. This isn't over."



### WESTERN **The Hateful Eight**

**Director:** Quentin Tarantino  
**Starring:** Samuel L. Jackson, Kurt Russell

Set after the Civil War, a stagecoach hurtles through the wintry Wyoming landscape. The passengers, bounty hunter John Ruth and his fugitive Daisy Domergue, race towards the town of Red Rock.

**ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE**

**Critics:** **Audience:**  
 **85%** **+ 98%**



### DRAMA **Concussion**

**Director:** Peter Landesman  
**Starring:** Will Smith, Gugu Mbatha-Raw

This dramatic thriller is based on the incredible true David vs. Goliath story of Dr. Bennet Omalu, the brilliant forensic neuropathologist who made the first discovery of CTE, and a sports-related brain trauma in a pro player who fought for the truth to be known.

**ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE**

**Critics:** **Audience:**  
 **58%** **+ 95%**



### COMEDY **Daddy's Home**

**Director:** Sean Anders  
**Starring:** Will Ferrell, Mark Wahlberg

A mild-mannered radio executive strives to become the best stepdad to his wife's two children, but complications ensue when their freewheeling and freeloading real father arrives, forcing him to compete for the affection of the kids.

**ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE**

**Critics:** **Audience:**  
 **32%** **+ 96%**



### DRAMA **Joy**

**Director:** David O. Russell  
**Starring:** Jennifer Lawrence, Robert DeNiro

This is the wild story of a family across four generations centered on the girl who becomes the woman who founds a business dynasty and becomes a matriarch in her own right.

**ROTTEN TOMATOES™ SCORE**

**Critics:** **Audience:**  
 **63%** **+ 96%**

## 7 WAYS JUDD APATOW FIXED FUNNY



Judd Apatow is a millennial Renaissance man. As the director of movies like *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* and the producer of such flicks as *Superbad*, *Pineapple Express* (above) and *Anchorman*, Apatow has used his voice to champion a new kind of storytelling in comedy. Here's how:

**1. He launched the raunchy comedy.** Hollywood execs in the 1990s kept most comedies broad — PG-13 fare aimed at teenage boys. The 40-Year-Old Virgin (2005) was an R-rated film that explored awkward middle age. And we were all the richer for it.

**2. He built a bridge between the '90s and today.** Apatow got his start working with Garry Shandling, Jim Carrey, Adam Sandler and Ben Stiller — stars that defined 1990s comedy.

**3. He rejected the star system.** In his own productions, Apatow is known for taking chances with unknown or under-appreciated talents, such as Seth Rogen, Melissa McCarthy and Steve Carell. After working with Carell on *Anchorman* (2004), he encouraged the *Daily Show* alumnus to write the story for *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*.

**4. He plays well with others.** Apatow encourages collaborative filmmaking, such as on-set improv, which in turn leads to some of the funniest outtakes in the biz.

**5. He's a friend to the underdog.** Apatow loves subcultures. From the sleepy stoners being chased by drug lords in *Pineapple Express* to the awkward high-school seniors facing separation anxiety in *Superbad*, he shows that even losers get lucky sometimes.

**6. That's because the journey is half of the fun.** In the Apatow-verse, side chatter and witty wordplay get as much airtime as action scenes and gags. It makes relationships between characters feel more real.

**7. He knows women are funny.** Apatow has provided a platform for strong female performers such as Catherine Keener in *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and Leslie Mann in *Funny People*. He's also nurtured Lena Dunham (*Girls*), Amy Schumer (*Trainwreck*) and Kristen Wiig, who co-wrote one of his biggest hits, *Bridesmaids*.

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## 5

## POP CULTURE MOMENTS THAT MADE HEADLINES IN 2015

The worlds of celebrity and pop culture were filled with attention-grabbing moments over the course of 2015, and sometimes enough similar ones — like when doughnut debacles and bad pics take on a life of their own on the Internet — to constitute a troubling trend. Here's what got our attention this year.

NED EHRBAR METRO IN HOLLYWOOD



## 1 Justin Bieber makes a comeback

In 2014, Justin Bieber was Canada's most hated export. But this year, a pop-culture miracle occurred and he is back on top thanks to excessively apologizing and releasing some actually very good new music. Joining forces with Skrillex and Diplo, Bieber's song What Do You Mean? debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Hot 100 — that, in addition to two other songs dominating the charts.



## 2 Taylor Swift's overstuffed squad

Taylor Swift hit the road this year for her 1989 tour and used it as a chance to prove to the world that she knows a lot — and we mean a lot — of famous people (seen here with Selena Gomez), with cameos onstage by the U.S. women's soccer team, Miranda Lambert and Justin Timberlake to name a few. But she wasn't impossible to say no to. Patrick Stewart and Ian McKellan were able to resist her charms. And honestly, Jennifer Lawrence and Amy Schumer dancing on Billy Joel's piano felt much more organic.



## 3 Amy Schumer's 'last f-able day'

Leave it to comedy's golden girl to bring together the mega-wattage of Tina Fey and Patricia Arquette to toast Julia Louis-Dreyfus' "last f-able day" in the Season 3 premiere of her Comedy Central show. Not only hilarious by nature, it threw astute shade at Hollywood's wild standards for women "of a certain age." Schumer returned the favour later this year, appearing in Fey and Amy Poehler's Bad Blood parody on Saturday Night Live. Double props.



## 4 The Ballad of Poot Lovato

As much as Demi Lovato might hate it, the fictitious mutant sister that her family has kept locked in the basement was having a major moment in 2015 — a moment that wouldn't end for the beleaguered singer, with Twitter Q&As and Instagram comment sections continually hijacked by snarky fans concerned about Poot's well-being. You can't fight the Internet, Demi.



## 5 Ariana Grande's doughnut debacle

One way to help make your bubbly young pop-star self seem more relatable? Showing you like to get stoned and skulk around donut shops, maybe even overstepping your bounds and taste-testing a pastry on the counter, as Ariana Grande did in a great moment caught on camera. Not so helpful? Declaring that you "hate America" after being chastised for your intoxicated behaviour.

OH WHAT FUN IT IS  
TO BE DONE.

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## NYE bar essentials

I'm sure this far into the holiday season you've seen your share of unorganized bar setups. Don't let your New Year's party be under scrutiny; hire a shirtless bartender and outfit your party with the best bar accessories.

**Karl Lohnes**  
For Metro Canada



**1 GLUCKSTEINHOME  
Trolley Styled Bar Cart**

Keep the kitchen island clear and all your bar candy organized. \$300, TheBay.com

**2 Godinger Hammered  
Stainless Bar Set**

All the materials you will need to show off your mixology skills. \$80, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

**3 Tom Dixon ARC Corkscrew  
Pull**

Add some designer style to your wine bar. \$88, HopsonGrace.com

**4 Ralph Lauren 2-Piece  
Greenwich Double  
Old-Fashioned Glass Set**

A good drink means serving it in a damn-good glass. \$95, TheBay.com

**5 Carter Muddler**

Mash and muddle those garnishes for a truly handmade drink. \$18, CrateAndBarrel.com

**6 Crabbie's Ginger Beer**

Reportedly, a big mainstay for this season's crafty bartenders. \$3.60, CrabbiesGingerBeer.com

**7 Tartan Crock-Pot Classic  
Slow Cooker**

A great way to keep those hot toddies and ciders warm throughout the party. \$28, Walmart.ca

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Weeknights at 6 Hannah counts down the HOTTEST songs of the day.

### 6 THE SIX@6 LAST NIGHT:

- 6 Adele Hello
- 5 Justin Bieber Love Yourself
- 4 One Direction Perfect
- 3 Fetty Wap ft Remmy Boyz 679
- 2 Shawn Mendes ft Camila Cabello I Know What You Did Last Summer
- 1 Classified ft Snoop Dogg No Pressure



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'I think I was already sacked': Man United manager Louis van Gaal on reports that Jose Mourinho is in line for his job

## Have fun in Helsinki

### WORLD JUNIORS

### Stars of the past dish advice to Canada's U-20s

Veterans of the world junior hockey championship say the keys to success are found off the ice: Have fun, soak in the experience and try to avoid distractions online.

"The biggest thing is have fun, enjoy it," said Brad Boyes, who won bronze and silver with Canada in 2001 and 2002 respectively. "It really does go fast. It's been a long time since I've been there. The biggest thing is enjoy it, compete, win. You might not have another chance to do it. "You gotta have fun, that's the biggest thing. Take it for what it is but give it everything. You don't get a second chance sometimes."

Mike Babcock, who guided Canada to gold in 1997, says that having fun is just as important for the coaches, if not more so, because it's up to them to set the tone for the players, both at training camp and at the tournament itself.

"No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself," said Babcock, who

spoke with head coach Dave Lowry and his staff at Canada's selection camp in Toronto. "You got to get the guys very prepared but you've got to enjoy it. It's a grind and it's hard to win but if you enjoy the process you have a better chance."

"The other thing is that preparation's got to be equal to the opportunity, get really prepared and you've got a way better chance of getting lucky and guys playing well."

This year's championship will be played from Dec. 26 to Jan. 6 in Helsinki. While the event has become a holiday tradition across Canada, tournament veterans say the

“

**No. 1 is you've got to enjoy yourself.**

Maple Leafs coach and 1997 world junior champion bench boss Mike Babcock.

weight of the nation's expectations don't hit the players until they've begun to play and messages from home start to pile up.

Edmonton Oilers rookie sensation Connor McDavid, who won gold with Canada last year, suggested that the players on this year's team should unplug from social media because even well-intentioned messages can build pressure. It's a sentiment that has been echoed by Hockey Canada brass and some other veterans of the team.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Jake Virtanen tucks in one of his two goals in Wednesday's world junior warm-up game against Sweden in Helsinki.

HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA/LEHTIKUVA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Canada shaky in final WJC tune-up

Mitch Marner scored with less than four minutes to go to cap the scoring in a wild third period, and Canada edged Sweden 7-6 Wednesday in its last exhibition match before the world junior hockey championship.

Canada led 5-1 heading into the third, before Sweden lit up Canada goaltender Mason McDonald with five goals over the final 20 minutes.

"We put ourselves in a very good position after two periods, and we just have to continue

### WEDNESDAY In Helsinki

7	6
CANADA	SWEDEN

to play and have the ability to close out leads," Canada coach Dave Lowry said.

Marcus Pettersson's second goal of the period at 15:26 tied the game at 6-6 before Marner's goal salvaged the win for

Canada.

McDonald, a Halifax native, recovered to make some big saves over the final minutes with Sweden pressing for the tying goal. He ended up stopping 26 of 32 shots.

"He gave us a chance," Lowry said of his goaltender. "He made saves, and he made timely saves."

Vancouver Canucks forward Jake Virtanen had two goals for the Canadians, with Dylan Strome, Mitchell Stephens,

Haydn Fleury and Brendan Perlini also scoring.

Oskar Lindblom, Jacob Larsson, Axel Holmstrom and Adrian Kempe had Sweden's other goals.

Linus Soderstrom gave up five goals on 20 shots before being replaced by Erik Kallgren, who stopped five of seven shots in relief.

Canada opens its defence of the world junior title Saturday against the rival United States.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### MLS

## Impact try to quell fans' Drogba dread

The Montreal Impact are trying desperately to convince star striker Didier Drogba to play for them next season rather than go back to struggling Chelsea.

The club issued a statement through a series of tweets Wednesday saying they want Drogba

to honour his contract for the 2016 Major League Soccer season.

"We are doing everything we can to have him back with the Impact in 2016," the club tweeted. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Guus Hiddink and Didier Drogba last Saturday. GETTY IMAGES



### IN BRIEF

#### Canadians bring back Spengler Cup veterans

Canada will have three returning players this year as it chases its first Spengler Cup championship since 2012.

Goaltender Drew MacIntyre and forwards Alexandre Giroux and Chris DiDomenico were named to Canada's roster Wednesday. They played on Canada's 2014 squad that lost in the semi-final to Geneve-Servette.

Canada opens vs. Russia's Avtomobilist Yekaterinberg on Saturday in Davos, Switzerland. THE CANADIAN PRESS

#### CB Norman fined \$26K

The NFL has fined Carolina Panthers cornerback Josh Norman \$26,044 for his role in several incidents involving Odell Beckham Jr. and the Giants in Sunday's game.

Norman was fined twice Wednesday in the amounts of \$17,363 and \$8,681. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Josh Norman  
GETTY IMAGES

### NFL

## Beckham's ban stands for Sunday

Odell Beckham Jr. is going to have to serve his one-game suspension.

Hearing officer James Thrash on Wednesday upheld the suspension for multiple violations of safety-related playing rules after hearing an appeal by the New York Giants receiver earlier in the day.

Beckham will

miss the game Sunday night at Minnesota. The second-year Pro Bowler is barred from team

meetings; attending or watching practices; attending Sunday's game; or having contact with any club personnel except to arrange off-site medical treatment or rehabilitation. He will be reinstated next Monday.

The NFL suspended Beckham on Monday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Odell Beckham Jr.  
GETTY IMAGES







**A drone carrying a TV camera crashed and burned Tuesday.**  
CONTRIBUTED

SKIING

## Drones banned after nearly hitting racer

The international ski federation is banning camera drones from its World Cup races after one of the flying objects crashed and nearly hit Austrian skier Marcel Hirscher during a slalom in Italy.

FIS will prohibit drones "as long as I am responsible ... because they are a bad thing for safety," men's race director Markus Waldner said Wednesday, a day after the night race in Madonna di Campiglio.

"It was huge luck that Marcel was not hurt," Waldner said. "I am very angry."

The drone carrying a TV camera came down and shattered on the icy slope just behind Hirscher, a few seconds after the Olympic silver medallist started his second run.

The company responsible for the drone, sports marketing agency Infront, said its initial investigation "indicates a malfunction of the drone." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“

**I didn't know what it was, but I felt something.**

Skier Marcel Hirscher

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# metroOBITUARIES

Thursday, December 24, 2015 **17**

## CRANE, Maria "Kay" Catherine (nee Richard)

84 Passed away at home on December 21, 2015. Maria was born in Sydney Mines, Cape Breton on December 4, 1931. A loving mother and homemaker, Kay was an excellent cook and enjoyed preparing meals for her family and friends. She loved to watch food and cooking channels and she was also a fan and of watching old movies. Kay loved all of her children and was very proud of them and of her grandchildren and great grandchildren as well. She took great joy in having the family visit. Kay was predeceased by her loving husband of 63 years, Joseph Patrick Crane. She was also predeceased by her granddaughter Dawn Maria MacDonald. She is survived by her brother Roy (Betty) Richard and their children Shanna and Cory as well as her 8 children; Cathy (Bob) Menzies, Frank Crane, Brenda (Barry) James, Brian Crane, Paula (Ronald) MacDonald, Jimmy (Laurie) Crane, Judy (Pierre) Crane, Pam (Terry) Steeves, Anne and her many grandchildren and great grandchildren. Visitation will be held 2-4 p.m., Sunday, December 27th at Atlantic Funeral Home, 125 Sackville Dr., Lower Sackville, where a funeral service will be held 11 am, Monday, December 28th. Father Duncan MacMaster officiating. Interment will follow in Oakridge Memory Gardens. In lieu of flowers donations in memory may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia or the Canadian Diabetes Association. On-line condolences may be shared by visiting:

[www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com](http://www.atlanticfuneralhomes.com) (Sackville Chapel)



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## MACDONALD, Francis



MacDonald, Francis - 67 of Lower Sackville/Mabou, it is with deep sorrow that we the MacDonald family announce the passing of this remarkable man, peacefully, surrounded by his loving family Sunday December 20th, 2015 at the QEII Health Sciences Centre, Infirmary Site Hospital, Halifax. Born September 7th, 1948 he was the son of Jessie

(Gillis) MacDonald and the late John Francis MacDonald. Surviving are his mother, Jessie, Mabou; his beloved wife of 42 yrs, Margaret (MacLean) MacDonald; his cherished children, son, John Donald MacDonald, Sackville; daughter, Mary Jessie and son-in-law & buddy, Jody Prior, Sackville; brothers, William (Annette), Ontario; Jerome (Nelly), Ontario; Angus A, Anitgonish; Bernie, Daniel, both of Mabou; sisters, Mary Pat (Albert) Connors, Antigonish; Matilda, Sackville; Barbara (Scott) MacDonald, Centreville; Rita MacDonald, Mabou; sister-in-law, Debbie and special nephew, Devin MacDonald; along with many nieces, nephews, cousins and the whole MacLean family. Francis's pride and joy were his grandchildren, Briah MacDonald, Jessie and Jaxson Prior. He was constantly bragging of their accomplishments and he loved passing on country life to these city children. He enjoyed feeding the ducks with the grandchildren along with nature walks, craft days, bike rides, sledding and fishing trips. Besides his father Francis was predeceased by brothers, Alexander Jerome and Joseph. He was a simple and easy going man with an enormous heart. Constantly helping those around him, putting others first before himself. Never one to sit still, always on the go, he enjoyed pulling pranks, eating baked goods and music like no other. He was happiest surrounded by his family. Francis was a hardworking man his entire life, previously employed by Farmers Diary and currently at Power Vac and the Beacon House. We would like to thank the doctors and nurses of Palliative Care 8th floor, QEII for their incredible care. We would also like to thank his work family at Power Vac for all their support. Visitation will be held from 6-8 pm Monday December 28th at Atlantic Funeral Home, 125 Sackville Dr., Lower Sackville. A funeral mass followed by a reception will be held at 10 am Tuesday December 29th at St. John Vianney, 4 Beaverbank Rd., Lower Sackville. Father Charles Burke officiating. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia. On-line condolences may be shared by visiting:

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# metroOBITUARIES

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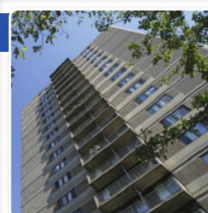
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# RECIPE Sweet Potato and Split Pea Soup



PHOTO: MAVA VISNIEI

**Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh**  
For Metro Canada

This simple, hearty soup is packed with as much nutrition as it is with comfort factor.

**Ready in**  
Prep time: 1 hour 15 minutes  
**Serves 6**

- Ingredients**
- 8 1/2 cups water
  - 2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
  - 2 cup dried yellow split peas
  - 1 Tbsp freshly grated ginger
  - 1 large onion, chopped
  - 2 Tbsp toasted pumpkin seeds

**Directions**

1. Place a large sauce pan over medium heat and fill with 1/2 cup water and onion, allow to cook

until onions are translucent. Add ginger and simmer for 2 minutes. Add remaining 8 cups of water, sweet potato and peas to pot and bring to a boil.

**2.** After a few minutes, reduce the temperature and cover soup. Allow to simmer for 1 hour, or until the sweet potatoes and tender.

**3.** In that same bowl, toss your shrimp with the other half of the marinade. When the broccoli has been in the oven for 10 minutes, take out the sheets, turn the broccoli over and add the shrimp evenly across the two sheets. Put it all back in the oven for another 10 minutes.

**4.** Allow to soup to simmer last 10 minutes uncovered. Working in batches, put soup in a food processor and purée. Garnish with pumpkin seeds or sunflower seeds.

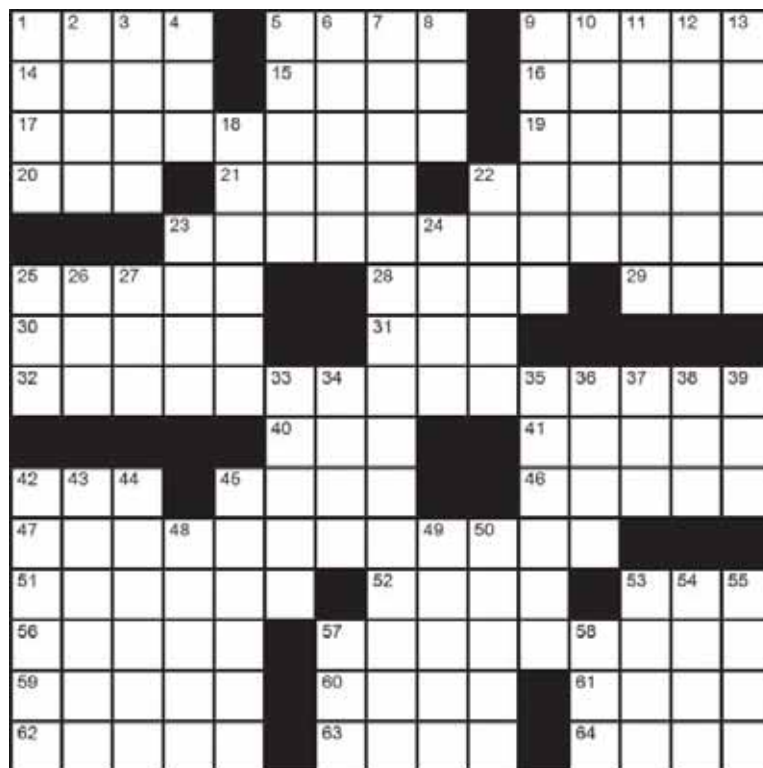
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# CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

## ACROSS

1. "\_\_\_ Is Christmas": Festive tune by #59-Across
5. Ancient's 1601
9. Monastery boss
14. Comical "Ouches!"
15. Egg: French
16. Bellows
17. The \_\_, "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" (1989) family
19. 'Madame' of chemistry
20. Canuck prov.
21. Carried
22. Brightly-plumed bird
23. "Glory to the new-born King!" exclaimers: 2 wds.
25. Eternal City's ancient inhabitant
28. Lively
29. Socialite's 'born'
30. Moon shape, e.g.
31. Indonesia's \_\_\_ Islands
32. When many might still be shopping for Christmas gifts: 4 wds.
40. "\_\_\_ little tea-pot..."
41. Raised flatlands
42. Sit-ups targets
45. Util. bill
46. Friends, slangly
47. NORAD service monitoring the progress of Rudolph and the gang on Christmas eve: 2 wds.
51. Baking... All-purpose and multigrain



52. Canadian rocker Mr. Kroeger
53. Gunk
56. Decorate
57. "We Three Kings of Orient Are"... "Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying / Sealed in the \_\_\_ tomb."
59. Canadian singer/songwriter

- Ms. McNeil
60. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn
61. Tilled
62. Be popular on Twitter
63. Mail org. in The States
64. Hubbubs

## DOWN

1. "Is that for here or \_\_\_?" (Fast food query)
2. Highway honker
3. "Don't know \_\_\_ matters, but..."
4. Leaky balloon sound effect
5. Communicating cow
6. \_\_\_ Falls (High

- waterfall on Vancouver Island)
7. "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch"...
- "You're as \_\_\_ / You're as charming as an eel..."
8. Perhaps-es
9. Esoteric
10. Old 'town' in France

11. Like the wilderness
12. Baltimore baseball player
13. Dangerous flying bug
18. Wherefrom
22. Bit of drumming in "The Little Drummer Boy": 2 wds.
23. Jumble
24. Pub game prop
25. TV brand
26. Christmas dinner fragment
27. Converged
33. Lively rhythms
34. Canadian's continental neighbour, briefly
35. Hold back
36. Not ever, poetically
37. Employ
38. Dance style
39. 'Count' suffix
42. Of equal quickness: 2 wds.
43. Town in southern Manitoba named after one of Norse deity Odin's sons
44. Alarm clock button
45. Made money
48. Burial shroud city in Italy
49. Eat loudly
50. Surnamesakes of Orson Welles' most famous role
53. Fine
54. Butter substitute
55. Gambler's chances
57. Moo \_\_\_ pork (Takeout dish)
58. "\_\_\_-ching!"

# ★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

**♈ Aries** March 21 - April 20  
You need to make a bold decision and choose between one approach or another. The only danger is that your emotions will guide you instead of reason. Think before you act.

**♉ Taurus** April 21 - May 21  
It's not a good time for taking risks, so don't be tempted to gamble, even if the odds are in your favour. Travel plans, too, are likely to be disrupted, so unless you must be on the move it might be wise to stay at home.

**♊ Gemini** May 22 - June 21  
You may go over the top if you think you are being cheated out of what you deserve. Before you start firing off accusations make sure you've got the evidence to back them up.

**♋ Cancer** June 22 - July 23  
An emotional looking full moon in your sign over the next 48 hours means you can't trust your feelings. Refuse to get upset no matter the provocation. How you react matters.

**♌ Leo** July 24 - Aug. 23  
Something will disrupt your schedule. But why should that worry you? Relax. Slow down. Take it easy for a while. Save your energy for a time when you can make things happen.

**♍ Virgo** Aug. 24 - Sept. 23  
The current cosmic set-up is more than a little misleading, so don't jump to conclusions and don't launch into a tirade against someone you think does not appreciate you. They'll soon be singing your praises.

**♎ Libra** Sept. 24 - Oct. 23  
Making changes should be easy, but because the current full moon cuts across such an important axis of your chart you must make sure it's what you really want. You won't be able to change back again later.

**♏ Scorpio** Oct. 24 - Nov. 22  
There is no point trying to keep feelings to yourself because you won't be able to. Be open about the way that you feel. If you bottle up your emotions they could explode later.

**♐ Sagittarius** Nov. 23 - Dec. 21  
If someone is giving you a hard time, remove yourself from their presence before you do something that will make matters worse. Don't put up with immature behaviour.

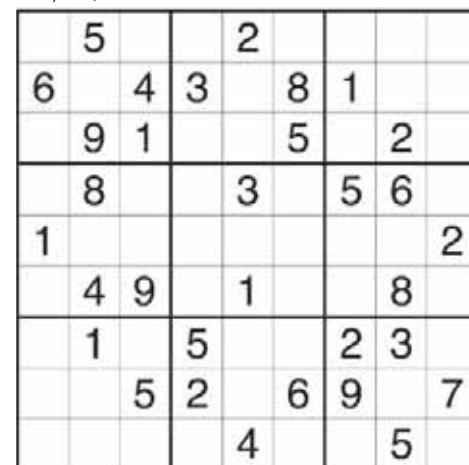
**♑ Capricorn** Dec. 22 - Jan. 20  
Everything that needs to happen will happen when the time is right. Others will be rushing here, there and everywhere in an effort to get on top of things, but you don't have to.

**♒ Aquarius** Jan. 21 - Feb. 19  
This is a time more for thinking than for doing, so resist the urge to start something new and instead of wasting time on trivial and frivolous people, spend some quality time with your thoughts.

**♓ Pisces** Feb. 20 - March 20  
You may want to end a relationship but first try looking forward and asking yourself if you may later decide that you were too hasty. Full moons can play all sorts of tricks on people.

## CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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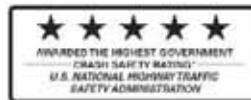
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